

2026

VISIONARY LEADERSHIP AWARDS



Marguerite Rodgers Kinney Award for a Distinguished Career

Elizabeth Bridges

Elizabeth Bridges, PhD, RN, FCCM, FAAN, is a nationally recognized critical care expert with over 40 years of experience. She is a professor emeritus at the University of Washington (UW) School of Nursing and retired in 2024 as the clinical nurse researcher at UW Medical Center.

A retired colonel in the United States Air Force Nurse Corps, Bridges served for 30 years, including deployment to Afghanistan and leading disaster and trauma-response training in over 20 countries. She led one of the Department of Defense's largest military nursing research programs, advancing evidence on the care of critically injured service members during long-distance transport and in austere environments. She is editor of "Battlefield and Disaster Nursing Pocket Guide."

Bridges has been a dedicated AACN volunteer for decades, contributing to the development of the CCRN and CCNS exams, serving on the AACN Board of Directors, and leading the association as president in 2020-2021 on the front end of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has served on the editorial boards of the AACN journals and contributed to "AACN Essentials of Critical Care Nursing."

Bridges is an accomplished mentor who has strengthened direct care nurses' ability to interpret research. She is widely known for expertise in hemodynamics, sepsis and evidence-based practice.

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